



NEWS RELEASE

For additional information, please contact Katie Bieber by phone (402-471-5025) or email (katie.bieber@nebraska.gov).

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NEBRASKA OUTSCORES PEERS ON NATIONAL SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Nebraska's 2015 fourth- and eighth-graders scored higher than their peers across the country in science scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

The NAEP science assessment measures proficiency based on student understanding of physical sciences, life sciences, and earth and space sciences. More than 4,500 Nebraska students were sampled for the exam.

Nebraska's average science score at proficiency or above is 162 for fourth grade and 160 for eighth grade, higher than the national average of 153 at both grade levels.

Of the 46 states and jurisdictions with students taking the NAEP science assessment in fourth grade, only two outscored Nebraska. Similarly, in eighth grade, Nebraska students surpassed all but three states and one jurisdiction.

The following are among other key findings from this year's Nebraska NAEP science assessment data:

- The percentage of fourth-grade students in Nebraska who performed at or above proficiency was 47 percent, a full ten percent above the national average of 37.
- In 2015, black fourth-grade students had an average score that was 34 points lower than white students but narrowed to 29 points lower in the eighth grade.
- The average eighth-grade NAEP science score for Hispanic students in Nebraska has increased seven points since 2011.
- Low-income eighth-grade students had an average score of 21 points lower than that for students not in low-income families.

NAEP measures student achievement in a wide range of subjects. This winter, almost 300 Nebraska schools will participate in the 2017 NAEP assessment. A random selection of fourth- and eighth-grade students will be tested in mathematics and reading, with a smaller group of schools participating in civics, geography, U.S. history, and writing.

The national NAEP report card as well as NAEP results in 12th-grade mathematics and reading can be viewed at: <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.